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Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Oksana **Boiko** (Ukraine)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'", and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a substantive debate on the item jointly with item 102 at its 12th to 16th, 19th, 22nd and 26th meetings, from 9 to 11 and on 14, 17 and 24 October 2002. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/57/SR.12-16, 19, 22 and 26).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2002;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/57/286).

[1] See A/57/3; for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/57/3/Rev.1).

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4. At the 12th meeting, on 9 October, statements were made by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Interim Manager/Director of the International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) (see A/C.3/57/SR.12).

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Interim Manager/Director of INSTRAW engaged in a dialogue in which the representatives of Venezuela and Spain took part (see A/C.3/57/SR.12).

6. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see A/C.3/57/SR.12).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.22

7. At the 22nd meeting, on 17 October, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" (A/C.3/57/L.22). Subsequently, Belarus, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Oman, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, Sao Tome and Principe and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At the 26th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Pakistan orally revised operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, replacing the words "administrative measures" with the words "comprehensive legislative measures".

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.22, as orally revised, without a vote (see para.12, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.28

10. At the 26th meeting, on 24 October, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Loreto Leyton (Chile), reported on the results of the informal consultations held on

the draft resolution submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/57/L.28).

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.28 without a vote (see para.12, draft resolution II).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

12. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which, inter alia, calls for international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,[3] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[4] the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[5] the Beijing Declaration[6] and Platform for Action[7] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights[8] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[9]

Recalling further its resolution 55/68 of 4 December 2000,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enunciated in the Charter, and reaffirming also the obligations of States parties under international human rights instruments, in

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).
[3] Resolution 2263 (XXII).
[4] Resolution 48/104.
[5] Resolution 1904 (XVIII).
[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[7] Ibid., annex II.
[8] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[9] Resolution 55/2.

particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[10] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[10] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[11] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[12] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[13] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[14] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[15]

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[16]

Reaffirming further the call for the elimination of violence against women and girls, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages,

Stressing the importance of the empowerment of women as a tool to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[17]

2. *Expresses deep concern* at the persistence of various forms of violence and crimes against women in all parts of the world, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages;

3. *Stresses* that all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[16] are obstacles to the advancement and empowerment of women, and reaffirms that violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

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[10] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[11] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[12] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.
[13] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[14] Resolution 39/46, annex.
[15] Resolution 45/158, annex.
[16] Resolution S-23/3, annex.
[17] A/57/171.

4. *Also stresses* the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages as a criminal offence punishable by law, including violence based on all forms of discrimination;

5. *Welcomes* specific legal and comprehensive legislative measures being enacted or contemplated, in particular with regard to various forms of violence against women and girls;

6. *Also welcomes* in this regard the launching of various initiatives, strategies and action plans aimed at, among other things, eradication, prevention, promotion, information, legislation, protection and welfare, education and research, enhancement of the economic capacity of women and the monitoring of the various forms of violence against women;

7. *Reaffirms* that there is increased awareness of and commitment to preventing and combating violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, welcomes in this context various legal, administrative and other measures taken by Governments for their prevention and elimination, and calls for high priority to be attached to the further strengthening of such measures;

8. *Urges* Member States to strengthen awareness and preventive measures for the elimination of all forms of violence against women, whether occurring in public or private life, by encouraging and supporting public campaigns to enhance awareness about the unacceptability and the social costs of violence against women, inter alia, through educational and media campaigns in cooperation with educators, community leaders and the electronic and print media;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* of the work being done by non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, community-based organizations and individuals, in raising awareness about the economic, social and psychological costs of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, and in this regard encourages Governments to continue their support for the work of the non-governmental organizations in addressing this issue;

10. *Calls upon* States to fulfil their obligations under the relevant human rights instruments and to implement the Beijing Platform for Action[7] as well as the outcome document of the twenty-third special session;

11. *Encourages* States parties to include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other relevant treaty bodies, wherever possible, sex-disaggregated data and information on measures taken or initiated to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session;

12. *Urges* relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, to assist countries, upon their request, in their efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, and in this regard expresses its appreciation of the work being done by the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women and other relevant funds and programmes aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls;

13. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to further devote equal attention to all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, in her work and her reports, within her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on this matter to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

Draft resolution II
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995, 51/69 of 12 December 1996, 52/100 of 12 December 1997, 53/120 of 9 December 1998, 54/141 of 17 December 1999, 55/71 of 4 December 2000 and 56/132 of 10 December 2001,

Recalling also the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[18] and the proposed actions and initiatives to overcome obstacles and challenges thereto,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[19] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Stressing the importance of strong, sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels for achieving full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Welcoming the increased attention to the situation of women and girls and the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the United Nations, in particular in the outcomes of major conferences, special sessions, summit conferences and

[18] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[19] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

their follow-up processes, and reaffirming its commitment to building on progress achieved in this respect,

Welcoming also the attention given to the situation of women and girls and the integration of a gender perspective in the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002;[20] the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002;[21] the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 8 to 10 May 2002;[22] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,[23]

Emphasizing the importance of the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, to devote the coordination segment of one of its substantive sessions, before 2005, to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, adopted by the Council on 18 July 1997,[24]

Noting with concern that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[25] and the Protocols thereto[26] have not yet entered into force,

Reaffirming the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality, while noting the open debate entitled "Peacekeeping and gender" held in the Security Council on 25 July 2002,

1. *Reaffirms* the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[19] and also in the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session;[18]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[27]

3. *Calls upon* Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and all other relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to take effective action to achieve full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as elaborated in the above-mentioned documents;

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[20] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[21] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[22] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[23] A/CONF.199/20, chap. I, resolutions 1 and 2.

[24] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[25] Resolution 55/25, annex I.

[26] Ibid., annexes II and III, and resolution 55/255, annex.

[27] A/57/286.

4. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

5. *Calls upon* Governments and all other relevant actors to continue to integrate a gender perspective in the implementation of and follow-up to recent United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions and in future reports on this subject;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include an assessment of the progress in promoting the goal of gender equality, in particular in relation to the Millennium Declaration development goals,[28] in his annual and quinquennial follow-up reports on the Millennium Declaration, and recommendations to improve the measurement and coverage of indicators so that progress towards gender equality can be evaluated over time;

7. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Geneva in 2003, and in Tunis in 2005, and encourages Governments and all other stakeholders to integrate a gender perspective in the preparatory processes and outcome documents;

8. *Reaffirms* its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

9. *Also reaffirms* that the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session will be undertaken within the framework of an integrated and coordinated follow-up to major international conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

10. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all activities in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, building upon agreed conclusions 1997/2 adopted by the Council on 18 July 1997,[24] and in this regard welcomes the inclusion of the issue of gender mainstreaming in its agenda, the consideration of annual progress made in gender mainstreaming and the attention given to gender perspective in the outcomes of the Council's substantive session of 2002;

11. *Encourages* the Council to request the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to intensify efforts to build up a database, to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by organizations or bodies of the United Nations system are listed, and to facilitate the dissemination of information on such programmes and projects, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

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[28] See resolution 55/2.

12. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Commission on the Status of Women in the follow-up and review of the future implementation of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, reaffirms that the Commission on the Status of Women will continue to play a central role in this regard, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to continue to support its work;

13. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action and of the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session by regional commissions and other regional or subregional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and calls for the promotion of further cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region;

14. *Also recognizes* that sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels are essential elements for the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

15. *Further recognizes* that adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required;

16. *Acknowledges* that the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels, including through the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

17. *Reaffirms* that, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, including through the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women and of the office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender units and focal points;

18. *Also reaffirms* that United Nations bodies that focus on gender issues, such as the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Children's Fund, have a critical role to play in the implementation of the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and recognizes that gender specialists throughout the United Nations system also have an important role to play in this regard;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by all relevant organizations of the United Nations system in promoting the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution;

20. *Recognizes* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, and urges the United Nations system and Governments to make further efforts in this regard and to take steps to ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building, as well as through the integration of a gender perspective into those United Nations processes;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel and officials at Headquarters and in the field, especially in field operations, receive training so that they mainstream a gender perspective in their work, including gender impact analysis, and to ensure appropriate follow-up to such training;

22. *Also requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective;

23. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[29] to include information on measures taken to implement the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action, in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention;

24. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[30] and urges States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

25. *Urges* Member States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[25] and the Protocols thereto,[26] in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;[31]

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to disseminate the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session as widely as possible in all the official languages of the United Nations;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to integrate a gender perspective in his reporting to the Assembly, in order to support gender-sensitive policy formulation;

28. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special

[29] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[30] Resolution 54/4, annex.
[31] Resolution 55/25, annex II.

session with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further measures and strategies for future action within the United Nations system;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".